

NOTE ON MR. SUTER'S PAPER ON SPECIES OF *CHIONE* FROM NEW ZEALAND.

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IN the first place I would point out that the synonymy quoted by Mr. Suter at the commencement of his paper dates back as far as 1853, for both Sowerby, in the "Thesaurus Conchyliorum," and Deshayes (Cat. Conchifera Brit. Mus.) regarded *Venus crassa*, *mesodesma*, *violacea*, and *denticulata* as belonging to one species. In the next place I would note that it is not quite correct to say that the habitat of *V. denticulata* was "said by Quoy & Gaimard to be Nouvelle Holland ou Van Diémen." Their words are: "Nous ignorons sa localité positive; nous la supposons de la Nouvelle Hollande ou de Van Diémen."

With regard to *Venus spissa*, Deshayes, I would point out that *spissa* was merely a misprint of *crassa*. This will at once be evident by referring to the Hist. nat. Anim. sans Vert., 2nd ed., vol. vi, p. 373. *Venus spurca*, Sowerby, may be regarded as an uncertain species, as it was said to be from Valparaiso. The shells under this name in the Cuming Collection are undoubtedly *V. crassa*, but it is impossible to say that they are the actual specimens described by Sowerby in the Proc. Zool. Soc., 1835, p. 23. The shells subsequently figured by Sowerby (Thesaurus Conch., vol. ii, pl. clvi, figs. 92-97) and by Reeve (Conch. Icon., vol. xvi, pl. xx, figs. 90a-b) are certainly *V. crassa* and varieties.

In my opinion *V. crassa* was founded on old and much thickened shells, and *V. denticulata*, *V. mesodesma*, and *V. violacea* are younger stages of the same species. I agree with the late Dr. E. von Martens that *Murcia scansilis* of Römer¹ is also a synonym.

The species appears to be common in some parts of New Zealand. The localities Valparaiso and Philippines require confirmation. Mr. Suter has failed to note that I have recorded this species from the Auckland Islands in 10 fathoms, and also from Tristan da Cunha in 1,000 fathoms.

¹ Mal. Blätt., vol. vii (1860), p. 161.